made to me on this subject by persons who are anxious to settle in the Country ~~above referred to~~ ~~if the Government intends soon to make this purchase, and how soon it will be possible to effect the transfer, and obtain permission to settle &c.~~ and being persuaded that you will very willingly exert yourself to effect any reasonable and practicable object desired by so many of your fellow Citizens in this part of the State, I very freely consented to make this communication in their behalf –

In order to throw some light on the subject and to give you some idea of the probable cost of the land above mentioned, I enclose you a Copy of a Report which I made to Gov. Clark in relation to this proposed purchase in the year 1818, when I was serving in the Indian Department. – A. –

You would much oblige me and gratify a host of anxious enquirers, if you would write me once or twice to say what progress this subject is likely to make during the present session of Congress. –

I am with great respect
Yr. friend & Mo. Obt. Svt.
G. C. Sibley

Hon. David Barton
Senator from Missouri
Washington City.

Fort Osage January 10th. 1824

Missouri Historical Society
Saint Louis

Dear Sir

I do not believe you could render a more acceptable service to this section of our State than by procuring an appropriation of Money for the extinguishment of the Indian title to the Land claimed by the Kansas on the South side of the Missouri within the bounds of the State – It is with good reason I assure you that the above Land has obtained from those who have explored it, the appellation of "The Garden of Missouri".

Besides the uncommon excellence of the soil and beautiful aspect of the Country, it possesses other great natural advantages that would render it a garden indeed if once settled and owned by our enterprising Citizens – The fine tract of Country now lies an unproductive Wilderness, utterly useless to the Savages who claim it, and interdicted to our People; thousands of whom are now anxiously waiting for our Govt. to purchase it, that they may enter upon it, and reap from it those great advantages which it is presumable the God of Nature designed for the use of Civilized Man.

Were this section purchased by Govt. and immediately placed in Market, the rapidity of its settlement and improvement would undoubtedly surpass that of any other part of the State or Union! Its rich and luxuriant soil would quickly yield a copious overflow of valuable commodities to enrich the State – Its Water falls, which are numerous and some of them of very great value, would soon give life to Manufacturing establishments, and our State would be strengthened by the speedy accession of another Community of

of hardy freemen - The Kansas are willing to sell their claim to the U. States, for a mere trifle as compared with the immense value of the land - and I am very sure there can be no good reason urged why the Govt. should refuse to purchase it -

It is in vain to attempt to restrain our People from occupying any part of the State which they desire, such restriction only tends to make a vast number of idle unproductive citizens, who tenaciously refuse to purchase lands or to settle themselves any where, till the favourite spot is within their reach. it tends to multiply to a great extent squatters upon the Public Land and the consequent injury thereof by destruction of timber &c.

I believe there are more than an hundred instances within my own knowledge of Men with families, who are now squatters on the Public Land, who are able to purchase but who will not till they can purchase in the tract I am speaking of.

Meanwhile they are utterly useless to themselves or the State, living chiefly upon the bounties of wild Nature the Venison and Honey and wild fruits of the Land, - they necessarily contract habits of idleness & a sort of semi-savage barbarism of manners that in some degree unfits them for the duties of civilized life. They are in short homeless wanderers - and such is the stubbornness of their Nature that they will rather remain as they are than forego the great privilege of occupying the home of their own free choice - For my own part I could never approve that policy which seems to have been too often adopted by the General Government of refusing access to any very desirable section of the Public domain till some other sections less desirable by far are sold and settled - This sort of "Bible and Cheese" policy will never be submitted to by ~~the Pioneers of the West~~ Emigrants, as I have said before, they will not settle at all if they cannot obtain the land, they must be ~~able to settle in that section of Country which they choose.~~ like it -

The favour (if boon can be called) which we ask of the Government ~~amount~~ is simply to this - "Purchase this valuable tract of Country from the Kansas, to whom it is useless, ~~for a trifling sum~~, and sell it to your own Citizens who desire it and will make a valuable use of it, for an immense profit" - This favour may well be asked by Missouri as an act of justice, indeed it would appear ~~somewhat~~ very strange if it should be refused after a proper examination of the subject; the more especially as the like requests from other States have never I believe been refused - Be this as it may, it is very certain that the settlement of the tract in question will very materially benefit this State, whose policy it ought most undoubtedly now to be during these "Piping times of Peace", to encourage and foster the settlement of our extreme frontiers, and to draw into action all the resources within our limits - To suffer this fine section of Country to remain much longer a Wilderness, while so many ~~thousands~~ of our People are desirous of settling and improving it - would in my opinion deserve severe reprehension. - For my self, I assure you Sir I have no other interest in this matter than as one settled in the country and who feels a desire to see something like civilized society growing up around him - I have no speculations in view nor do I expect to have any growing out of the proposed purchase from the Kansas - I am principally induced to address these very hearty remarks to you, in consequence of the very numerous ~~applications~~ inquiries that have recently been made

A - 'Ind. Department' — — then add as follows -

It should be observed that of the Territory offered by the Kaws to me, not more than half of that is embraced within the limits of this State - A sum not exceeding $5000 would be sufficient to defray all the Expences of negociating and completing the purchase including an advance or donation to the Kaws of a sum not exceeding $2000 - and I presume that the Kaws would be satisfied with a perpetual annuity of $1000 and a Blacksmith costing in the whole abt. $1500 a year - a sum less than the simple Interest per annum of the Minimum price for a single Section of Land - It would not be unreasonable to say that the Net sum for which 40,000 acres of this Land would sell immediately (deducting therefrom all expences of surveying and selling) would, if put out to Interest at 4 pct. per annum, yield more than sufficient to discharge this annual payment to the Ind.

And the U. States would then have remaining not less than a Million of Acres, one fifth of which would probably sell as readily and for as much by the Acre as the above 40000 - Thus it may be demonstrated that as regards the mere profit & loss part of the business; this favour which is asked of the Govt. will put into their Coffers a Net sum of not less than $200,000 in a reasonable time, and leave them besides half a million of Land or more -

These advantages however are as nothing in comparison with those which will result to Missouri when this Wilderness shall be converted into cultivated fields and filled with a community of industrious and independent people - To effect all which need not, and I hope will not require more than 2 or 3 years at most. -

"You would &c." —

Missouri Historical Society
Saint Louis